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Appl. No. 09/877,374
Reply to Office action of September 22, 2006

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method of producing a heterologous antibody by an avian cell comprising:

culturing an avian oviduct cell transfected with at least one expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an immunoglobulin polypeptide under conditions allowing for the expression of the nucleotide sequence, and

culturing the avian cell under conditions wherein the avian cell produces an immunoglobulin polypeptide that forms an antibody that selectively binds an antigen or an immunoglobulin polypeptide that, when isolated and then combined with a light chain or heavy chain, forms an antibody that selectively binds an antigen,

isolating the immunoglobulin produced by the cultured cells,
thereby producing a heterologous antibody.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the immunoglobulin polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of an immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region, an immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region and a constant region, an immunoglobulin light chain variable region, an immunoglobulin light chain variable region and a constant region and a single-chain antibody comprising two linked immunoglobulin variable regions.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the expression vector further encodes a second immunoglobulin polypeptide and an internal ribosome entry site (IRES).

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the immunoglobulin polypeptide has a peptide region for the isolation of the immunoglobulin polypeptide.

Appl. No. 09/877,374
Reply to Office action of September 22, 2006

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the avian cell is selected from the group consisting of a chicken cell, a turkey cell, a duck cell, a goose cell, a quail cell, a pheasant cell, a ratite cell, an ornamental bird cell and a feral bird cell.

Claim 6-8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the expression vector is selected from a viral vector, a plasmid vector, or a linear nucleic acid vector.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of Claim 9, wherein the expression vector is a viral vector selected from the group consisting of avian leucosis virus, adenoviral vectors, transferring-polylysine enhanced adenoviral vectors, human immunodeficiency virus vectors, lentiviral vectors, and Moloney murine leukemia virus-derived vectors ~~and variants hereof~~.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of Claim 9, wherein the expression vector is a plasmid vector.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the expression vector includes a constitutively active promoter.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of Claim 12, wherein ~~a transcriptional promoter of the expression vector~~ the constitutively active promoter is a cytomegaloviral promoter.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein a transcriptional promoter of the expression vector is a tissue-specific promoter.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of Claim 14, wherein the tissue-specific promoter directs expression in oviduct cells of an avian species.

Appl. No. 09/877,374
Reply to Office action of September 22, 2006

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of Claim 15, wherein the tissue-specific promoter is selected from the group consisting of promoters of the genes encoding ovalbumin, lysozyme, ovomucoid, ovotransferrin (conalbumin) and ovomucin.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein a transcriptional promoter of the expression vector is a regulatable promoter.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein a transcriptional terminator of the expression vector comprises a region encoding a bovine growth hormone transcriptional terminator.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein the immunoglobulin polypeptide is an immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region ~~or a variant thereof~~.

Claim 20 (original): The method of Claim 19, wherein the immunoglobulin heavy chain further comprises a D region, a J region and a C region.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein the immunoglobulin polypeptide is an immunoglobulin light chain variable region ~~or a variant thereof~~.

Claim 22 (original): The method of Claim 21, wherein the immunoglobulin light chain further comprises a J region and a C region.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1 ~~19~~, wherein the immunoglobulin polypeptide is a mammalian immunoglobulin heavy chain polypeptide or an avian immunoglobulin heavy chain polypeptide.

Appl. No. 09/877,374
Reply to Office action of September 22, 2006

Claim 24 (original): The method of Claim 23, wherein the immunoglobulin heavy chain polypeptide comprises at least two domains derived from at least two animal species.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The method of Claim 23, wherein the mammalian immunoglobulin heavy chain polypeptide ~~mammal~~ is selected from the group consisting of a human, a mouse, a rat, a rabbit, a goat, a sheep, a cow ~~or~~ and a horse immunoglobulin heavy chain polypeptide, and wherein the avian immunoglobulin heavy chain polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of a chicken, a turkey, a duck, a goose, a quail, a pheasant, a ratite, an ornamental bird and a feral bird immunoglobulin heavy chain polypeptide.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein the immunoglobulin polypeptide is a mammalian immunoglobulin light chain polypeptide or an avian immunoglobulin light chain polypeptide.

Claim 27 (original): The method of Claim 26, wherein the immunoglobulin polypeptide comprises at least two domains derived from at least two animal species.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The method of Claim 26, wherein the mammalian immunoglobulin light chain polypeptide ~~mammal~~ is selected from the group consisting of a human, a mouse, a rat, a rabbit, a goat, a sheep, a cow ~~or~~ and a horse immunoglobulin light chain polypeptide, and wherein the avian immunoglobulin light chain polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of a chicken, a turkey, a duck, a goose, a quail, a pheasant, a ratite, an ornamental bird and a feral bird immunoglobulin light chain polypeptide.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the immunoglobulin polypeptide comprises an immunoglobulin heavy chain variable region, an immunoglobulin light chain variable region, and a linker peptide, and thereby forming a single-chain antibody.

Appl. No. 09/877,374
Reply to Office action of September 22, 2006

Claims 30- 61. (cancelled)

Claim 62 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the immunoglobulin polypeptide is human.

Claim 63 (previously presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the immunoglobulin polypeptide is humanized.

Claim 64 (currently amended): A method of producing an antibody specific for CTLA4 comprising:

introducing a nucleotide sequence which encodes an antibody specific for CTLA4 into an avian oviduct cell under conditions allowing for expression of the nucleotide sequence,

culturing the avian oviduct cell under conditions wherein the nucleotide sequence is expressed, and

isolating the CTLA4 antibodies produced by the cultured cells,

thereby producing an antibody specific for CTLA4.

Claim 65 (currently amended): The method of claim 64, wherein the nucleotide sequence is ~~included on~~ part of an expression vector.

Claim 66 (previously presented): The method of claim 64, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises a transcription unit having a nucleotide sequence encoding the antibody specific for CTLA 4.

Appl. No. 09/877,374
Reply to Office action of September 22, 2006

Claim 67 (previously presented): The method of claim 64, wherein the nucleotide sequence is operably linked to a transcription promoter and a transcription terminator

Claim 68 (currently amended): The antibody method of claim 64, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

Claim 69 (currently amended): The method of Claim 64, wherein the avian oviduct cell is selected from the group consisting of a chicken oviduct cell, a turkey oviduct cell, a duck oviduct cell, a goose oviduct cell, a quail oviduct cell, a pheasant oviduct cell, a ratite oviduct cell, an ornamental bird oviduct cell and a feral bird oviduct cell.

Claim 70 (currently amended): The method of Claim 64, wherein the avian oviduct cell is a chicken cell.

Claim 71 (canceled)

Claim 72 (previously presented): The method of Claim 64, wherein the antibody is a human antibody.

Claim 73 (canceled)